

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 18-28 are pending in this application. In the prior Office Action dated November 6, 2006, the Examiner stated that “[c]laims 9-10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.”

Although the current Action, dated May 2, 2007, now states that this means only that the **combination** of claims 9 and 10 is allowable, this reading would have resulted in the claims being rejected, not objected to (since as they stood they were not combined). There was no claim that contains the exact language cited in the current Office Action. Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter but submit that the art and the wording and logic of the prior rejection confirm that claims 9 and 10 are each allowable, not only when combined. In this situation, the Markush grouping, which provides for the possibility of one or the other, is appropriate. As such, favorable reconsideration is requested.

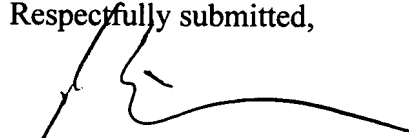
It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-8 are patentable for the same reasons expressed in the Office Action with respect to former claims 9 and 10, and favorable reconsideration is requested in light of the current remarks and prior amendments. It is respectfully submitted that claims 18-20 are patentable for the same reasons expressed in the Office Action with respect to claims 9 and 10, and favorable reconsideration is requested in light of the current remarks and prior amendments. Claims 21-28, which are essentially computer-readable medium formatted claims that are similar in subject matter to the method claims 1-8, are patentable for the same reasons expressed above with respect to claims 1-8, and favorable reconsideration is requested for these claims as well.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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